



GERMAN
HERITAGE
LANGUAGE
SCHOOL

Annual Report 2022-2023

Message from the Chair

As Chair of the GHLS Board, it is my pleasure to present to you the 2022-2023 Annual Report. This past school year has seen many successes thanks to the dedication of our teachers, volunteers, parents and students.

This was the first school year in which we effectively offered a hybrid model for learning with both in-person and online classes. Enrollment has remained consistent for all levels, from kindergarten to adult classes. The GHLS has maintained fiscal stability throughout.

In February, we welcomed a new Principal, Cornelia Schneider. Cornelia brings to the role a wealth of knowledge and experience in pedagogy. Cornelia currently holds a position of Associate Professor at Mount Saint Vincent University. Additionally, Marco Rönz, our current DSD teacher, became Vice Principal which is a new role for the GHLS. Marco has also taken on the role of DSD Project Manager.

With funding from the German Embassy in Ottawa, our school celebrated the launch of a new library called “LeseEcke” (translation: Reading Corner). Students were introduced to the library in March and have enjoyed access to a new selection of German literature.

Our various Board committees continued to support many areas of the school organization such as cultural festivities, educational support for teachers, and policy revision. Much work goes on behind the scenes and I am grateful for all that the members of these committees have achieved.

I am proud to report that 5 students successfully completed the DSD 1 certification. The GHLS has applied for DSD 2 accreditation and it is our hope to someday be able to offer this to our school community.

It is my pleasure to continue my role as Chair of the GHLS Board for the upcoming school year and I am looking forward to working together with you.

Enjoy your summer and see you back at school in September!

Arne Martens



GHLS at a Glance for 2022-2023

Education

7

Number of Kids and Youth Classes offered

NUMBER OF KIDS STUDENTS

47



Kids/Youth Students (Fall Term)

45



Kids/Youth Students (Winter Term)

22

Number of Youth Students who completed the DSD1 since 2015 at the GHLS

7

Number of Adult Classes offered

NUMBER OF ADULT STUDENTS

54



Adult Students (Fall Term)

40



Adult Students (Winter Term)

Community Engagement

9

Number of Community Events held

- Laternenfest
- Pier 21: Opening Ceremony (Wander-)Ausstellung mit Kanada- und Deutschlandbezug
- Nikolausfest
- Bake Sale
- Trivia Night
- Fasching
- Library – Eröffnung und DSD-Zeugnis-Übergabe
- Ostereiersuche
- Year-End Party

Financial Stewardship

88%

of total Expenditures were spent on Charitable Activities

DONATIONS & GRANTS

\$337



Donations

\$3,411



Grant (Sprachbeihilfe)

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Our School Year in Review

Children and Youth Classes

We offer classes for children and youth for various levels. Children start as young as age four and are encouraged to speak German through play and music. In the children 4 and 5 classes, students can prepare for the German Language Diploma (DSD = Deutsches Sprachdiplom). The curricula for our children classes are based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). In addition to our regular classes, we began work on the course structure and format of a new Advanced Youth Conversation class. This course is intended for students who have completed the DSD 1 and who like reading about, discussing, and debating a variety of current topics. The 2022-2023 school year marked the first year since the COVID pandemic in which our classes were again held in-person.



German Language Certificate (Deutsches Sprachdiplom – DSD)

The school has applied for a renewal of our DSD I licence with the Zentrale Ausschuss für das *Deutsche Sprachdiplom der Kultusministerkonferenz (ZFA)*. Since the participation in the DSD1 exam was unusually high for us, we have been encouraged to apply for accreditation for the DSD 2 exam which is currently underway. We will also reapply for the DSD 1 accreditation next school year, with the hopes of obtaining a permanent accreditation.

Five students – Sarah Dantz, Nolwen Sienna Delarue, Anna Devred, Felix Wirkus und Thea Wirkus completed and passed the DSD I exams in 2023.



Adult Classes

For adult students we offer German courses at various levels, where students with no prior knowledge in German are just as welcome as advanced students who want to put their German knowledge into use in the conversational classes. The curricula for our adult classes are also based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Scholarships

Every year the GHLS awards a scholarship to one of the children and one scholarship to an adult student to recognize their commitment. Emilie Weise (Children 4) received the Gerta Josenhans Memorial Scholarship and Charles Hartlen (Adult 2) received the Eva Huber Memorial Scholarship.

LeseEcke – New Library

2023 saw the opening of the LeseEcke, our own school library which has been warmly welcomed by students and teachers. The inauguration was held in March 2023 in the presence of Rosa Solokowski from the German Embassy and Suzanne Rix from the Honorary Consulate in Halifax. We hope that the library will be an additional great resource for our students and teachers!

Our library has more than 400 items (books plus some DVDs and games) catalogued, and the records show that our patrons checked out 88 books/items in the short time that the library was up and running. A big thank you to Petra Giannoulis for managing our library on school days, and for the support from

our students Luisa and Chris Ensslin. The whole project was initiated by Annette Siebers, who kept the ball rolling despite the delays caused by the pandemic. Our Board Chair Arne fabricated our beautiful mobile cabinet for the library.

Jugend Debattiert Kanada Workshop in Montréal, Québec

In February 2023, three of our GHLS students (Sarah Dantz, Luisa Ensslin, and Jacob Weise), along with GHLS teacher Emily Martens-Oberwelland, travelled to Cégep de Saint-Laurent in Montréal, Québec, to take part in a German youth debate workshop. This workshop consisted of presentations and debate competitions, complete with debate juries. Our students competed against students from the Deutsche Internationalen Schule Alexander (Humboldt Montréal), from the Deutsche Sprachschule (Montréal Centre), and from Cégep de Saint-Laurent itself.

Teach the Teachers

The 2022-2023 school year started on September 22nd and ended on May 11th, with most classes being in person. Nevertheless, we have been able to maintain an online presence as well with 2 adult and one children's class being offered via Zoom.

Various teacher development opportunities for in class and online teaching were made available to the teachers. These were hosted by the ZfA, KVDS, Goethe Institute and book publishers. GHLS teachers attend these workshops or conferences on their own time and we appreciate the commitments and dedication our teachers have shown over the past years.

Last school year's professional development highlights included:

ACTG (Atlantic Council of Teachers of German) Conference

Three teachers and three of our board members attended this online conference on October 16, 2022. The conference was titled „Auf der Suche nach Erneuerung: Selbstverständnis, Praxis, Ausblicke“, and included presentations and workshops; emphasis on gender in culture and language courses.

Workshop with Mirjam Seidel: „Dekolonisation im Deutschunterricht – Beispiele für die Praxis“

Almost all teachers came to the workshop „Dekolonisation im Deutschunterricht – Beispiele für die Praxis“ which took place at Christine Höhne’s house on January 23, 2023. The workshop was followed by Q&A and by a potluck organized by the Board.

Community Engagement

The 2022-2023 school year was again filled with many community outreach activities, which were well attended by students, parents and the larger community that we are fortunate to call home. Our school feels very fortunate that we were able to hold several events where students, teachers and parents could meet face-to-face and celebrate key events that have been staples in our school’s history for three decades.

Our Administration

The 2022-2023 school year was our second year with a salaried part-time administration. We would like to thank our new principal, Cornelia Schneider and our administrator, Caroline Dantz for their dedicated and tireless work with our school.

Our Board

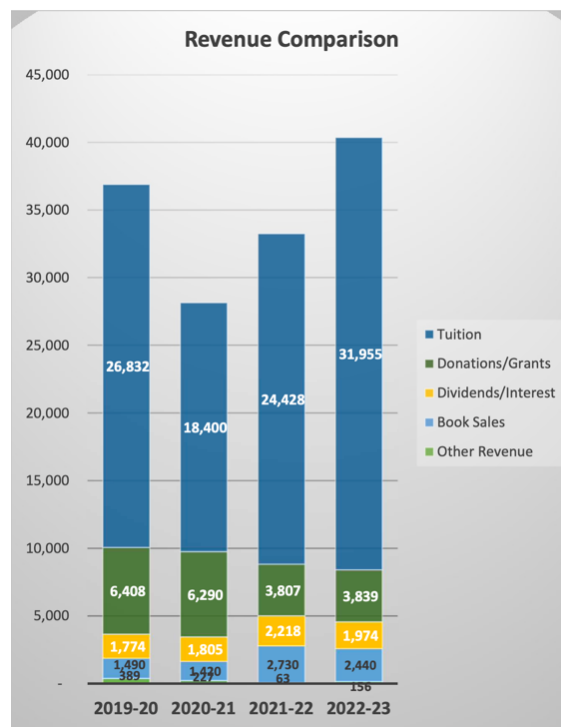
During the 2022-2023 school year, the following volunteer board members were pleased to serve our school community: Arne Martens (Chair, Chair, Governance Committee), Stefan Eisebraun (Treasurer, Vice-Chair), Friedemann Brauer (Teacher Representative), Verena Eichhorn (Chair, Engagement Committee), Cornelia Lorenz (Chair, Curriculum Committee), Brigid Garvey (Chair, Library Committee), Steffen Käubler (IT), Julia Pörtner (Members at Large), and Daniela Roth (Members at Large).

We always welcome new members to our committees. If you are interested to join, please contact: admin@germanschool.ca.

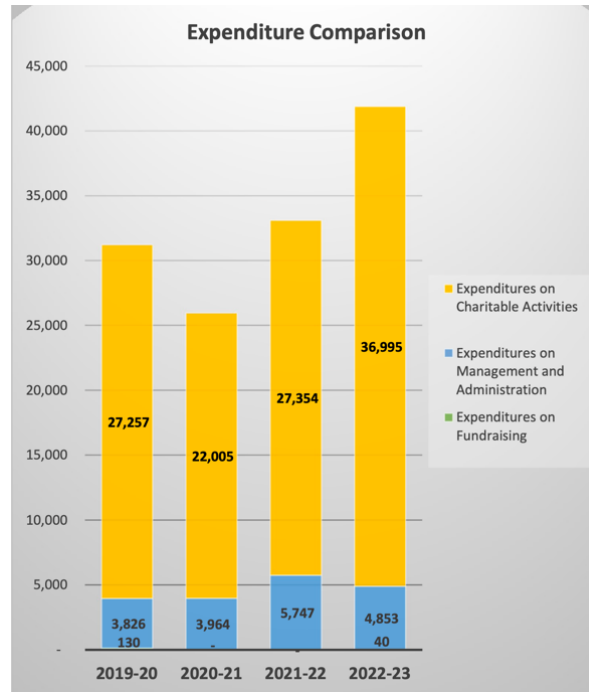
Financial Accountability

A summary of financial information for the year ended April 30, 2023 is provided below. Detailed Financial Statements are available on the school's website at www.germanschool.ca/reports.

2022-2023 Financial Summary



The GHLS generated a total of \$40,364 in revenue during 2022-23 compared to \$33,246 in the prior year. Most revenue is generated through tuitions (79.2%) and donations/grants (9.5%).



Total expenses of \$41,887 were higher than the prior year (\$33,101). The school had a net loss of \$1,523.



Our School Year in Pictures







Wir freuen uns auf das nächste Schuljahr 2023-2024.